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FILE ONLY

## Gonzaga group to oppose on-campus CIA recruiting

By Jim Sparks

Staff writer

The Central Intelligence Agency may get a chilly reception when it comes recruiting at Gonzaga University later this month.

Actions of the CIA contradict the principles of the Jesuit school, say some priests and students studying to be priests. They don't want the recruiters on campus.

In a letter to the Rev. Bernard Coughlin, S.J., Gonzaga's president, the group wrote: "What the Agency has become notorious for, particularly in this administration, is not its information, but its covert, often criminal operations."

The letter singled out the CIA's role in mining Nicaraguan harbors and distributing a pamphlet on overthrowing the Sandinista government that included a description of techniques of assassination.

The agency is scheduled to interview job candidates Oct. 22-23 at Crosby Alumni House. Opponents plan a vigil outside as long as the CIA is on campus.

"What we'll do is just stay there around the clock," said John Whitney, a spokesman for the group.

Whitney said the group, all members of Gonzaga's St. Michael's Institute, wants the CIA to interview students off-campus. Keeping the CIA out of campus buildings would remove the implication that Gonzaga tacitly approves CIA conduct, he said.

The group does not plan any actions of civil disobedience, however.

"It's not our right to deny the students contact with the CIA," said Mark McGregor. "We need to be

seen as people who are standing for a positive value. It doesn't make much sense just to be seen as angry protesters."

The interviews are going to be conducted as planned, said the Rev. Peter Ely, S.J., Gonzaga's academic vice president. He said Gonzaga students can help change organizations such as the CIA by joining them.

"We feel that the kind of students that we produce are likely to make better members of the CIA, or of the Army, or of any branch of government, than are people who have not received the kind of education that we give," Ely said.

"You can point to activities in about any branch of government that are not things we would approve of," he added.

Ely said he hopes students will leave the school with an education that will "keep them from being co-opted by the immoral." He said he is not alarmed by the opposition to the recruiting: "I don't have any problem with their raising issues like that."

The inspiration for opposing the CIA recruitment came from Fordham University in New York, another Jesuit school that protested the presence of the CIA.

"It's the university William Casey graduated from, so he put special emphasis on it," Whitney said. The opposition led to debates on campus and presentations by the CIA to students, but stopped recruiting interviews on campus, Whitney said.